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SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1912.

GIVE PEOPLE SCHOOL FACTS.

The committee at present investigating the methods and efficiency of the Richmond public schools has a delicate task to perform. It is dealing with a highly important public question, and at the same time with a very complicated technical science. To get at the facts and estimate the merits of any possible controversy in the case will require all the skill, acumen, knowledge and wisdom the members of this committee can muster. It cannot be done hastily by haphazard methods, or with any bias for or against particular interests. The people whose children are educated in the schools have every right to know how their money is spent, what the aims of the schools are, and how successfully these aims are being carried out. Presumably neither the school board nor its superintendent has any desire to conceal these things. It is also to be presumed that the committee is moved entirely by the wish to get at the facts, and if necessary correct any mistakes that are being made. The community at large is not interested in anything, but the proper training of its children.

As brought out at the first public session of the investigation, there are three points on which information is desired. The first is whether any of the supervisors of specific subjects in the schools are being paid more than their services are worth. The second concerns the curriculum in the elementary grades, and whether it can be improved by a more practical and efficient course of study than the one now taught. The third deals with a reported friction and lack of harmony and co-operation between the teachers on the one hand and the superintendent on the other. The very statement of these questions indicates the delicacy of the issues involved, and the absolute necessity, now that the matter has been opened, of a complete and satisfactory settlement of all subjects of criticism. If the criticisms have any basis in fact, they should be sifted to the bottom and remedies applied. If they are not facts, the light of publicity will end all future trouble.

The first session of the committee brought out nothing but that there are in Richmond, as everywhere else, a certain number of persons who are not satisfied with the progress their children are making, and who emphasize that the school board is probably very willing to admit that better work could be done with more money, more teachers, and more time for individual instruction. It showed nothing at all about the value of the methods at present employed. Where the evidence was not indisputable, it was pointed out that individual children of a system upon whose general success and policies the witnesses were not competent to speak, one person complained that the children were compelled to seek a great amount of help at home. Another, brought in the issue that the schools taught a certain number of things that the parents themselves were ready to teach. It will be an impossible undertaking to reconcile these views. And the committee of investigation is not a grievance board for parents.

The specific charge that there is too much attention paid to what are called "trills and fads" such as drawing, manual training, sewing and cookery, and not enough to the fundamentals of reading, writing, spelling, grammar and arithmetic, involves the question of how far the fundamentals are more fundamental than the trills. It is certain that all modern teaching is putting more and more stress upon the training of children for the duties of life, and nearly all cities are tending to the view that most citizens put in more time at manual work cooking and sewing than they ever devote to reading, writing or arithmetic. Here it is merely a matter of proportion, and upon this matter the trained educator ought to be better informed than a private citizen, brought in under different conditions, and without the proper conception of the educational needs of a whole city. But if facts and theories are crowding out essentials, it should be easy to remedy the difficulty.

Richmond's schools have made wonderful progress. Nothing should be done to cripple or weaken them. And if trained experts are put in charge of this branch of municipal work and made responsible for the good or evil results of their labors, it is in the height of folly to take back this responsibility and turn over the control of the schools to individuals, who are not responsible, and who do not see educational questions in a broad and scientific perspective.

AN ARIZONA REFORMER.

Senator Ashurst, newly elected from Arizona, in an address to a joint session of the State Legislature, pledged himself not to fall a victim to the "razz and grafting" of Washington.

clery" nor to countenance "the luxurious bathtubs and barber shops" of that "American House of Lords and millionaires' club," the United States Senate. "I want none of the dinners of the wealthy; none of the palatial senatorial bathtubs or barber shops for mine," he said.

Of course, this is a little raw, but there is much merit in the good resolution of the new Senator to maintain that Jeffersonian simplicity which is so rare in the national capital. He speaks with the confidence of youth and the assurance of inexperience; he is eager for reform, but the wet blanket is waiting for him. Proud of his black slouch hat and his corduroy pantaloons, Senator Bailey, of Texas, swore before he went to Washington that he would never don such an undemocratic thing as a dress suit. The eloquent Beveridge pledged himself to clothe the oratory of Clay and Webster, and make the Senate once more the forum of statesmanlike debate. Then Tillman, unkempt, unshaven and ungainly, for a long time would not wear a high frock coat, but now he sits in the Senate a mirror of fashion and a mold of form. There was sockless Jerry Simpson, too, but all these found out that custom hardens the consciences of Congressmen.

In the good old days, certain backwoods Senators would not call on President Washington. From that time on there have been those who championed simplicity and austerity in public life. They have held fast to the faith for a while, only to backslide forever. Senator Ashurst is just another of these. He cannot understand, as the people of the nation cannot, why Senators should be bathed, perfumed, shaved, manicured, massaged and shampooed at the public expense, but they are likely to keep on grafting in this way. It would be well if we had more like Senator Ashurst, who believes that \$7,500 is all that a member of Congress should get, instead of that amount and double it in additional perquisites. The plain people pay for their slaves or shave themselves, and they see no reason why they should pay for the removal of the whiskers of their hired men in Washington.

MADE GOOD IN MEMPHIS.

Memphis is very proud of her success under the commission form of government. The plan has been tried out for twenty months. The tax rate was never lower. The city pays cash for every purchase. It is getting interest on deposits put into banks. The lighting facilities have been increased. The transportation facilities have been improved. New sewers and new streets have been constructed. Almost \$1,000,000 has been spent in improvements paid by local assessment. The city has a better system of accounting. The citizens are interested in their government. The commission form is making good in Memphis, just as it is everywhere else.

HISTORY IS HISTORY.

A correspondent of the Boston Globe, who signs himself "Historian," is unfortunately tempted to wander beyond a specific query in that paper. He essays to answer and reopen the question of the comparative treatment of prisoners in the Southern and Northern military prisons during the War between the States. We say "unfortunately" for as a rule, the least said about this subject—the barrowing days and experiences—the better, especially for the North. In the course of his excursion into the extraneous field noted, "Historian" writes:

"You are correct in believing—an assumption of belief not justified by the facts—that our men were treated much worse than our treated Confederate prisoners. If history is history, it must be added that time history is very hard to find."

History is history, and in this instance true history is not very hard to find. If "Historian" will refer to Volume I, No. 2, "Southern Historical Society Papers," which is doubtless in more than one of the libraries of cultured Boston—if it isn't, it certainly ought to be—he will find the true history of this whole matter, and will probably regret that he has been so prone to supererogatory accommodation. He will discover indisputable evidence that the Confederates authorities always ordered kind treatment of the prisoners of war that orders were given to supply prisoners with the same rations that were issued to Confederate soldiers; that if the rations were scarce and of inferior quality, it was through no fault of the Confederate government; that the prison hospitals were on the same footing precisely as the Confederate hospitals; and that if there was unusual suffering caused by want of medicines and hospital stores, it arose from the fact that the Federal authorities declared these "contraband of war," and refused to accept the Confederate offer to permit Federal surgeons to come to the prisons with medicines and stores to be used exclusively for the Federal prisoners. Further, he will be confronted with the stubborn fact, sustained by official figures, that in proportion to prisoners confined, over 2 per cent. more of Confederates perished in Southern prisons than of Federals in Northern prisons. This hardly comports with "Historian's" words treatment assertion.

Upon pursuing perusal of the volume—this true history—"Historian" will find, moreover, a letter from the late Judge Robert Ould, Confederate commissioner for exchange of prisoners, in which the following occurs: "General Butler says he communicated to him (General Grant) the state of the negotiations, and most emphatically verbal orders were received from the lieutenant-general not to take any step by which another able-bodied man should be exchanged without orders

from him, and that subsequently he received a telegram from General Grant to receive all the sick and wounded the Confederate authorities may send you, but send no more in exchange." The Grant telegram alluded to, which appears on another page of the volume, reads in part:

"On the subject of exchange, however, I differ from General Hittcock; it is hard on our men to be held in Southern prisons not to exchange them, but it is humanity to those left in the ranks to fight our battles. Every man released on parole or otherwise becomes an active soldier against us, directly or indirectly. If we commence a system of exchange which liberates all prisoners, we will have to fight on until the whole South is exterminated. If we hold those caught, they amount to no more than dead men."

Reverting to the Ould letter, it continues: "Unless my recollection fails me, General Butler, in an address to his constituents, subsequently declared that he was directed in his management of exchange with the Confederate authorities to put the matter offensively for the purpose of preventing the exchange." The text of General Butler's address shows that Judge Ould's recollection had not failed him.

In the volume of Southern Historical Papers to which we have called "Historian's" attention there is page after page of testimony of both Confederate and Federal prisoners, and many official documents, to prove that his charge is a libel upon the Confederate authorities, and which, together with the excerpts we have given, demonstrate beyond controversy that the main responsibility for what both the Federal and the Confederate prisoner suffered rests upon the Federal government. For the sufferings of the Confederate soldiers in Northern prisons, for want of food and proper medical attention, there was no excuse, since the North had all the world from which to draw supplies. The sufferings in these respects of the Federal prisoners in Southern prisons was due to a necessity the North created, through its refusal to observe the cartel—its repudiation of the cartel—and its "contraband of war" policy and declaration.

We reiterate that the reopening of this question is unfortunate. But, as we have said, history is history, and when a "Historian" writes himself so little of a historian as does the Globe's correspondent, in the interest of the truth of history, and in justice to the rising generation, he should be told where to find the truth—if, indeed, he wishes so to do.

A TYPICAL VIRGINIA BELLE.

Yesterday morning's papers carried the story of a New York divorcee with this brief description: "She is said to have been a typical Virginia belle." That meaningless and mendacious description is worn to a frazzle by incessant use, and is almost as threadbare as "belongs to one of the oldest families of Virginia." If all the "typical Virginia belles" and so-called members "of one of the oldest families of Virginia" mentioned in the press in a year could be collected, they would fill a couple of States. If a girl has lived three months in the Old Dominion and attracts notoriety elsewhere, she is forthwith called a "typical Virginia belle"; if some other of equal claims upon Virginia commits a crime, she is forthwith classified as belonging to "one of the oldest families of Virginia." It's almost as bad as the "prominent Yale" or "prominent Harvard" men who get into scandalous scrapes, when, as a matter of fact, their names are not on the rosters of either university.

There is no such person as a "typical Virginia belle." The belles of Virginia are not like a flock of sheep, all alike and each indistinguishable from the other. The real Virginia belle is like another Virginia belle in some things, but very much unlike her in others, and there is no more "typical belle" than there is a typical college freshman. Virginia belles are all beautiful and lovely and fetching and all the other adjectives of pulchritude, but they are just different. No matter what bey you look at, you are no two alike. There are no such people as "typical southerners" and "typical Virginia belles."

Captain Scott, the South Pole explorer, has a strong sense of English humor. He says: "The magnetic pole in Victoria Land has made this part of the continent more attractive to explorers."

"What's become of all the 'XIX' pocket knives the boys thought so much of a few years ago?" asks the Montgomery Advertiser. Just as if the Alabama folks don't spend their lives whittling.

If everybody in the country is going to strike, it will at least be an excuse for a vacation that spring fever seems to make imperative.

A New York man declares that his wife began the conversational education of their child by teaching it to say: "Votes for women." If women are going to insist upon having the first word as well as the traditional last, the men might as well come into camp.

Edison's latest invention of a kinetoscope to throw moving pictures on the parlor wall has one advantage over that other product of his genius, the phonograph. It will not disturb the neighbors.

Now that Congress has taken up the matter of abolishing the phosphorus match, it might also turn its attention to providing a match that will defy the wind and not spit fire at a man when he is lighting his pipe.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

It's a cinch. He tips his hat politely as he helps her on the car. And finds a seat for her, it matters not how scarce they are. He sits right straight through every quarrel and never tries to slide Out of his seat between the acts to buy a clove outside. He asks if she would object if he enjoyed a smoke. When she approached with a "touch" he never says he's broke. He never goes out evenings, for he doesn't care to roam. He wears his smoking jacket all the time that he's at home. He treats her as politely as he'd treat a neighbor's wife. He couldn't let a swear word out, not even to save his life. He hangs his clothes up carefully and simply dotes on style. He has no slouchy manners and he always wears a smile. He doesn't growl about hard times, or quarrel with his food. He's simply shocked at everything that savors of the rude. He gets home from his office on the minute every day. And there is no attraction that can make him stay away. His household etiquette is simply great, and life is one sweet song. Yes, gentle reader, it's a cinch, they've not been married long.

Caught on the Fly.

Some of those presidential booms have fallen so flat that they could be folded up and mailed back home in regulation envelopes. An archduke has given up his title in order to marry a poor girl. He must be an imposter and not a real archduke at all. Speaking of the "man higher up," Mr. Morgan's new office is to be on the thirtieth floor of a skyscraper. An Eastern paper notifies the public that Mr. Sherman is still Vice-President. Yes, indeed. Very still. A noted Frenchwoman in New York says poets and actors are the only men who really live. Some of them will be surprised to know this. Captain Piazza is in command of the Italian fleet of aeroplanes. The captain sounds more like a front porch than an aviator. If Mr. Taft can only send his Cabinet away on a long trip around the world during 1912 he may win the election. But is Champ Clark a light, welter or heavyweight champ?

The City.

I'm not dead in love with the city; its rumble, its jumble and its jam. Its atmosphere sooty and gritty makes living laugh less than a chore. The crowd ever pushing and jumping and elbowing after the pelf. Where every last fellow is humping for no other end, all but himself. I don't want to live in the shadow of skyscrapers half a mile high. I don't know a place that is sadder than one where no sunshine is high.

There isn't a flower with the pickin'. There isn't no green heads and jam. There isn't no sort of a chicken save them which is ready to eat. It don't matter much where you ramble. You won't hear a lone rooster crow. And it's purty safe for a gambler you. Won't hear a sound in the shade of Just thumping and chugging and tootin' of automobiles all the time. Just burnin' up benzine and scootin' Around in a way that's a crime.

There's nothin' but hurry and flurry and bustle and bustle and jam. The best thing they do is to worry and hasten through life with a slam. O yes, I'm a rube, I confess it. The hayseed still clings to my hair. It doesn't take long for me to guess it. I don't want to live on my own terms. But I do not regret it, I only for rural surroundings to mine. They're welcome to live in the city. I'll take the old homestead for mine.

Voice of the People

Suffragists Congratulate Anix. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—The public meeting of March 27, organized by the Virginia Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage for the purpose of presenting to the Richmond people their position and views on the subject, was an immense source of encouragement to the equal suffragists present on that occasion.

It accomplished for the suffragists in one evening what they had feared might have taken years. It forever removed from the arena of discussion several of the main objections to woman suffrage, of which we have heard so much for the past twelve months.

In the first place, by holding a public political meeting, at which the speakers were women, the antisuffragists registered the approval of women as speakers on a political platform, and we shall therefore hear no more of the unwelcome suggestion of appearing on such public occasions.

In the second place, the chairman, in introducing the two excellent women

Abe Martin



Tipston Bell is again running for sheriff after a five days' siege of quinsy, or indoor boil. Some of our most ardent advocates of the municipal ownership of grocers are allus in the front seat at the theatre.

THE MAN WHO LOOKS NO HIGHER THAN MONEY.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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speakers from the North, called especial attention to the fact that they had each held political offices, thereby giving his sanction to the holding of public offices by women.

That the Antisuffrage Association also disavows offshooting by women is conclusively shown by the fact that they engaged these two ladies (with full knowledge of their having held political offices) as their representatives before a Richmond audience at their first public meeting. Hence, we are justified in believing that the objection as to the usefulness of woman for public office is laid to rest, along with other outgrown delusions.

Lastly, the two speakers, in the course of their remarks, laid great stress upon the importance of women informing themselves on questions of public interest, and urged that they should not only discuss such questions, but take an active part in promoting legislation affecting widows and children, and the community at large, even to the extent of lobbying, both speakers giving examples of effective work done in this direction by themselves, and other well known women.

They were upheld in this position by the frequent applause of the audience, both men and women, and by the fact that the chairman moved a vote of thanks for their instructive addresses, in which the audience concurred. Therefore it would appear from this action that all classes of women, both suffragists and antisuffragists, are lined up in opposition to the shopworn objection that the women, as women, are by nature unfitted for participation in public life, and would be going counter to the laws of God, if she took sufficient time to equip herself for intelligent participation in those matters of legislation which vitally affect her home and her children.

We are deeply indebted to this meeting, therefore, for having finally disposed of this last objection, and we can congratulate ourselves and the antisuffragists of the world, on the rapid progress they have made in the realization of the civic duties of the modern woman.

It must have been most gratifying to the speakers also to note the sudden conversion of those who, at the beginning, strongly condemned the woman who "invaded" the Legislature of Virginia, during the past winter, and yet, at the close of their earnest appeal for the active participation of women in public affairs, as strongly endorsed the successful "invasion" of the Legislature of Delaware by Miss Bissell, and with it the whole principle of a broader outlook and wider field of service for women.

Since then we are all agreed in sweeping away these outworn objections to the full citizenship of women, and since the antisuffragists are so rapid in approaching the standpoint of the suffragists themselves, we can but regard the future of our movement with great equality, and believe that in a few short years we shall all be working together, as enfranchised citizens, for the cause we each have at heart and which is the highest welfare of our State and nation.

In conclusion, while congratulating these excellent speakers on their breadth of view as regards the work of women, may I be permitted to call attention to certain omissions on their part in dealing with the question of wages?—for instance:

That the vote does affect the wages of women, note the fact that in Wyoming and Utah there are statutes providing that men and women teachers shall receive equal pay when equally qualified, and that in Colorado, according to the statements of Mrs. Grenfell, three times Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Dr. Barton Aylesworth, president of the Agricultural College of Colorado, no discrimination against women exists as to equal pay for equal work in the schools of that State since women voted.

Moreover, according to the United States reports, the annual average wage of women in Colorado is nearly \$100 more than in any other State, and in New Zealand there is by law a minimum wage for women workers of \$6.25 a week.

I should like to suggest for their consideration also, the recent action of the English Parliament in passing the minimum wage for nearly 1,000,000 miners, who because of their strong union plus the vote, were in a position to force such action upon an unwilling government.

As the ballot in the hands of New Zealand men and women, has made strikes unnecessary and raised the scale of wages, by means of the establishment of state boards of arbit-

tration, perhaps Miss Bronson may yet be persuaded that the ballot in the hands of women may prove efficacious in other countries as well.

That the legislation regarding the work of women is of comparatively recent date is due to the fact that conditions demanding such laws, did not exist in the suffrage States as they have done for many years in States east of the Mississippi, where vast numbers of women are employed in factories of every kind.

But, as manufacturing interests increase in the suffrage States, such protective laws have been passed, though Miss Bronson fails to mention them. There is a nine-hour law in Utah, an eight-hour law in California and Washington, as well as in Colorado, for women and children. The same exists in New Zealand, where also there are old age pensions, and pensions for widows with little children, a new experiment in home-making, and many trusts will be copied in many other lands.

When women get the vote in Virginia, we do not suppose for one moment that they will at once and always cast their ballots with superhuman intelligence or superhuman force. There may arise from time to time cases of women who may give or take bribes, as in the Denver elections alluded to, but, taken by and large, we believe that our women will stand for the best interests of the community, as the women of Seattle have done in two succeeding elections, for instance, and that equal suffrage, instead of breeding sex antagonism, will knit more closely together the men and women of our day, for the upbuilding and perfecting of the State, by the same method of co-operation which has enabled men and women together to make the perfect home.

LILA MEADE VALENTINE.
March 28, 1912.

The Bible, and the Ballot.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—It has often been stated by women opposed to equal suffrage that the plain method of ex-operations in direct contradiction to the teaching of the Bible. On the night of March 27 I attended a meeting of the "Virginia Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage," held at the Jefferson Hotel for the purpose of denouncing the woman who "invaded" the Legislature of Virginia, during the past winter, and yet, at the close of their earnest appeal for the active participation of women in public affairs, as strongly endorsed the successful "invasion" of the Legislature of Delaware by Miss Bissell, and with it the whole principle of a broader outlook and wider field of service for women.

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QUERIES & ANSWERS

Electric Line, etc.
Was the first electric line run in Richmond? Is there any town divided equally by the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina?
READER.
The first electric line in the world, except some small experimental affairs, was in Richmond, Virginia, on the line mentioned.

Canix.
Lists from B. C. Clepton, D. D. E. R. Shrouder and S. C. E. have not one item of value. To the two of these correspondents who ask for addresses of dealers the usual reply that they must send stamps is made.

Eikon Basilike.
Please tell me what eikon basilike Royal portrait. Picture of a king.

Foreign Exchange.
Can you inform me what rate in American money I shall have to pay for English pounds and German marks?
A. A. SLAUGHTER.
If "American money" you mean United States currency, 4 marks to the dollar, and \$5 to the pound would be exact enough.

Hope Diamond.
Please tell me in whose possession the Hope diamond is now. J. J. It belongs to Mrs. Edw. McLean.

Atlantic Cable.
Who invented the cable from America to England, and in what year was it laid?
D. M. D.

"Invented" is hardly the word. Samuel Morse, of course, "invented" the Atlantic cable, when, beginning in 1845 and completing the first line in 1854, he invented the electric telegraph. The first suggestion of an Atlantic cable is in a letter from Morse to the Secretary of the United States Treasury, August 19, 1842. Commodore Matthew F. Maury did more to make the cable project feasible than any one else. Cyrus Field, who was the practical man in the scheme, always said, "Maury furnished the brains, England gave the money, and I did the work."

Confederate Reunion.
Please state date and place of the next Confederate Reunion.
RICHMOND BOOSTER.
May, 7-8-9, 1912, Macon, Ga.

Federal General.
Can you tell me the birthplace of General Alfred Pleasanton, of the old Federal army?
A. S. P.
Washington, D. C. The phrase "old army" is commonly used of the United States army prior to 1860, not of that force during the War of 1861-5.

Etiquette.
Should a lady whom I am escorting not when I speak to an acquaintance? Should I, answering the "phone," say, "This is John Smith" or "This is Mr. John Smith"?
A DAILY READER.
No. "John Smith" is preferred unless you are speaking to a servant.

Satisfactory

This is the proper word to use when describing the service of this Bank.
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